

In response to the Office Action of March 23, 2007, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-19 (Cancelled)

20. (New) A method for producing intumescent layered silicate intercalation compounds with an increased volume of expansion and/or a modified onset temperature, which comprises storing at least one intercalate compound selected from the group consisting of lithium citrate, lithium formiate, lithium acetate, sodium formiate, sodium acetate, sodium oxalate, sodium gluconate, sodium methylate, sodium ethylate, sodium propylate, potassium formiate, potassium acetate, potassium gluconate, potassium oxalate, ethylene diamine tetraacetic acid dipotassium salt, alcoholates of lithium or potassium with methanol, ethanol, 2-propanol, 2-butanol, tert.-butanol, benzyl alcohol, 1-decanol, ethylene glycol, 1,3-propane diol, 1,4-butane diol and glycerine by cation exchange in native intumescent layered silicate, by the suspension of native, intumescent vermiculite, hydrobiotite and/or chlorite-vermiculite with a mean particle diameter of 0.1 mm to 10 mm as a layered silicate in a solution of the intercalate compound; separating the layered silicate intercalation compound formed from the suspension, after continually washing and drying, as an intumescent fire protection additive for the manufacture of flameproof materials.

21. (New) The method according to Claim 20, wherein the layered silicate intercalation compound contains an intumescent material selected from vermiculite, hydrobiotite or chlorite-vermiculite with a mean particle diameter of 0.33 mm to 1.0 mm.

22. (New) The method according to Claim 20, wherein the layered silicate intercalation compound is produced using water, an aliphatic or aromatic alcohol, an ester, an alkane, a cycloalkane, an aromatic solvent or an amine as a solvent.

23. (New) The method according to Claim 20, wherein the layered silicate intercalation compound is produced using the intercalate compound in a concentration of 0.01 mol/l to 5.0 mols/l in the solution.

24. (New) The method according to Claim 23, wherein the concentration of the intercalate compound is 0.1 mol/l to 1.0 mol/l in the solution.

25. (New) The method according to Claim 20, wherein the layered silicate intercalation compound has been produced at a temperature of the intercalation reaction of 10°C to 150°C.
26. (New) The method according to Claim 25, wherein the intercalation compound is produced at an intercalation temperature of 25°C to 60°C.
27. (New) The method according to Claim 20, wherein the time of the intercalation reaction is 65 to 144 hrs.
28. (New) The method according to Claim 20, wherein the reaction time for the intercalation reaction is 10 to 36 hours.
29. (New) The method according to Claim 20, wherein the layered intercalation compound is separated from the suspension by filtration or decanting, optionally followed by solvent washing and drying.
30. (New) The method according to Claim 20, wherein the drying is carried out at room temperature in a vacuum or in a drying cabinet at elevated temperature.
31. (New) The method according to Claim 30, wherein the drying is carried out in a drying cabinet at 60°C to 80°C for 1 hour to 12 hours.